

Application No.: 09/913,960

Docket No.: 21900-00035-US

REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully considered and the allowance of claims 1-29 is noted with appreciation.

The informalities listed by the Examiner have been corrected in the amendment to the claims.

In claims 1, 2, 15, and 16 the wording "mechanically searchable index" is changed to "an index, which is searchable by a computer." It is believed that this change is fairly supported by the description on page 1, lines 5-16 of the original specification, reciting that "an index preparing method and apparatus for utilizing a calculator to perform search, classification, tendency analysis, and the like of vector data with respect to a vector database as a group of vector data (N-dimensional real vector usually called "characteristic vector" obtained by arranging N real numbers indicating data characteristics) prepared by extracting respective data characteristics from various electronically accumulated databases (data groups) of text information, image information, sound information, questionnaire result, sales result (POS) and other data.". Remaining amendments are believed to be self-explanatory.

In view of the above, consideration and final allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

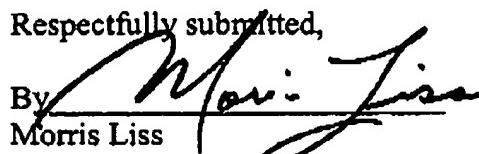
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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Dated: February 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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